

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: John C. Gano, Tommie A. Freeman, John S.
Bowling and James R. Longbottom

Entitled: EXPANDABLE WELLBORE JUNCTION

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: George A. Suchfield

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references, other than U.S. patents, are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patents:

5,794,702	6,273,634	6,078,031	6,070,671	5,667,011	6,253,852
5,979,560	6,390,202	6,390,201	6,371,211	6,371,203	6,328,113
6,318,457	6,464,001	6,454,493	6,431,282	6,419,025	6,135,208
5,318,122	5,353,876	2,397,070	3,757,877	4,413,682	4,444,276
5,058,676	5,255,741	5,330,007	5,348,095	5,388,648	5,425,559
5,462,120	5,655,602	5,695,008	5,718,288	2,331,293	5,771,972
5,813,465	5,937,955	6,059,037	6,024,168	6,336,507	

Foreign Patent Documents:

EP 0 136 935 EP 0 795 679 WO 96/23953 WO 97/06345
WO 99/13195

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the listed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



Marlin R. Smith
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,310

Dated: *Mar. 26, 2004*

660 North Central Expressway
Suite 230
Plano, Texas 75074
(972) 516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

Mailing Label No. EV341131777US

on MARCH 30, 2004
Shenna Stupkes

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Application Number		Unassigned			
Filing Date		Herewith			
First Named Inventor		John C. Gano			
Group Art Unit		3672			
Examiner Name		George A. Suchfield			
Attorney Docket Number		970194U1D1R1D2USA			
Sheet	1	of	3		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,794,702		NOBILEAU	08-18-1998	
		6,273,634		LOHBECK	08-14-2001	
		6,078,031		BLIAULT et al.	06-20-2000	
		6,070,671		CUMMING et al.	06-06-2000	
		5,667,011		GILL et al.	09-16-1997	
		6,253,852		NOBILEAU	07-03-2001	
		5,979,560		NOBILEAU	11-09-1999	
		6,390,202		HEIJNEN	05-21-2002	
		6,390,201		COON et al.	05-21-2002	
		6,371,211		HEIJNEN et al.	04-16-2002	
		6,371,203		FRANK et al.	04-16-2002	
		6,328,113		COOK	12-11-2001	
		6,318,457		DEN BOER et al.	11-20-2001	
		6,464,001		BRAITHWAITE et al.	10-15-2002	
		6,454,493		LOHBECK	09-24-2002	
		6,431,282		BOSMA et al.	08-13-2002	
		6,419,025		LOHBECK et al.	07-16-2002	
		6,135,208		GANO et al.	10-24-2000	
		5,318,122		MURRAY et al.	06-07-1994	
		5,353,876		CURINGTON et al.	10-11-1994	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP	0 136 935	B1	SOCIETE NATIONALE ELF	03-04-1987		
		EP	0 795 679	B1	ANADRILL INTERNATIONAL SA	05-15-2002		
		WO	96/23953	A1	INTEGRATED DRILLING	08-08-1996		
		WO	97/06345	A1	DRILLFLEX	02-20-1997		
		WO	99/13195	A1	NOBILEAU	03-18-1999		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known		
Application Number		Unassigned				
Filing Date		Herewith				
First Named Inventor		John C. Gano				
Group Art Unit		3672				
Examiner Name		George A. Suchfield				
Attorney Docket Number		970194U1D1R1D2USA				
Sheet	2	of	3			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2,397,070		J. A. ZUBLIN	03-19-1946	
		3,757,877		LEATHERS	09-11-1973	
		4,413,682		CALLIHAN et al.	11-08-1983	
		4,444,276		PETERSON, Jr.	04-24-1984	
		5,058,676		FITZPATRICK et al.	10-22-1991	
		5,255,741		ALEXANDER	10-26-1993	
		5,330,007		COLLINS et al.	07-19-1994	
		5,348,095		WORRALL et al.	09-20-1994	
		5,388,648		JORDAN, Jr.	02-14-1995	
		5,425,559		NOBILEAU	06-20-1995	
		5,462,120		GONDOUIN ³	10-31-1995	
		5,655,602		COLLINS	08-12-1997	
		5,695,008		BERTET et al.	12-09-1997	
		5,718,288		BERTET et al.	02-17-1998	
		2,331,293		H. W. BALLARD	10-12-1943	
		5,771,972		DEWEY et al.	06-30-1998	
		5,813,465		TERRELL et al.	09-29-1998	
		5,937,955		NIMS et al.	08-17-1999	
		6,059,037		LONGBOTTOM et al.	05-09-2000	
		6,024,168		KUCK et al.	02-15-2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

+

+

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	Herewith
				First Named Inventor	John C. Gano
				Group Art Unit	3672
				Examiner Name	George A. Suchfield
				Attorney Docket Number	970194U1D1R1D2USA

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

+